Commission has also drawn up a plan to eradicate illiteracy in the age-group 15—35 by involving students in all Colleges and Universities and open 50,000 centres by 31st March, 1990.

Application for letters of intent from Bihar

2377. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state the number of applications for letters of intent from the Bihar Government for opening of new industries in the private, joint and public sectors which are pending before the Central Government and since when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI PATTABHI RAMA RAO): Only two such applications received from Bihar Government undertakings are pending. These were received in July, 1984.

Losses incurred by Shipping Companies

2378. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 65 out of 67 Shipping Companies have incurred losses that are higher than their assets and reserves combined; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what measures have been taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

New Rule enforced by the Central Insecticides Board for the Registration of New Produce

2379. SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Insecticides Board has imposed a new condition for the registration of new produce by enforcing a new rule that a formulator can meet the Government expert only once in a month; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what steps Government propose to take to remove the hardship being faced by the producers due to this rule?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) The Central Insecticides Board has not imposed any new condition or enforced any new rule for the registration of new products. However, in order to ensure that the representatives of the applicants seeking registration of insecticides are properly attended to and their problems are duly sorted out, the procedure for dealing with the visitors was streamlined and certain guidelines have been issued. It has been stated therein that once the visitor is given the necessary guidance, he should wait for a reasonable period to enable the office of the Registration Committee to take action on the case and that a second visit within one month of the first visit is not necessary.

(b) The procedure had to be streamlined in view of a large number of visitors and Liasion Officers coming to the office of the Registration Committee to pursue their files and frequently making unnecessary queries, thereby hampering the normal working of the office. No hardship has been caused by this decision and, on the contrary, the working has become smooth.

Inquiry into the Working of the Central Insecticides Board

2380. SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state: